

By: Rose

H.B. No. 3531

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to establishing a peer education program for offenders in
3 the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

5 SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 501, Government Code, is
6 amended by adding Section 501.0052 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 501.0052. OFFENDER PEER EDUCATION. (a) The
8 department shall establish a program to authorize inmates who
9 possess specialized skills or education to provide instruction to
10 other inmates through voluntary workshops. The department shall
11 determine the types of workshops that may be offered and shall
12 emphasize workshops that encourage the general dissemination of
13 knowledge, enhance critical thinking skills, and increase the
14 literacy of participating inmates.

15 (b) The department shall establish minimum requirements for
16 participation in the program, including the requirements of inmates
17 who will provide instruction to other inmates. The department
18 shall establish a training course in workshop facilitation and
19 shall require an inmate to complete the course before the inmate may
20 provide instruction to other inmates.

21 (c) Each inmate who is providing instruction through a
22 workshop must determine the curriculum for the workshop. A
23 workshop curriculum must be at least six weeks and not more than 12
24 weeks in length and must include at least two meetings per week.

1 The department shall allow an inmate providing instruction through
2 the program to use the resources of the Windham School District
3 libraries in preparing a curriculum or course materials for a
4 workshop.

5 (d) An inmate providing instruction to another inmate may
6 only function as a teacher and advisor to the inmate and may not
7 exercise supervisory authority or control over the inmate.

8 (e) The department may consider the results of any
9 examination conducted in a workshop and the level of participation
10 in a workshop in determining the effectiveness of the workshop.

11 SECTION 2. Not later than December 1, 2013, the Texas
12 Department of Criminal Justice shall adopt rules necessary to
13 implement Section 501.0052, Government Code, as added by this Act.

14 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2013.